

*As its 72nd Production  
since its founding 22 years ago this month*



*The Play Troupe  
of  
Port Washington*

*presents*

*The Pursuit of Happiness*

*An American Comedy*

*by*

*LAWRENCE LANGNER and  
ARMINA MARSHALL LANGNER*

*Directed by TOM WOLFF*

*Friday and Saturday, May 27-28, 1949*

*8:30 p. m.*

*Senior High School Auditorium, Port Washington, N. Y.*

# *The PLAYERS*

*(In the order of their appearance)*

Meg, *a servant* . . . . . RUTH TALBOT  
Mose, *a servant* . . . . . DENIS KING  
Captain Aaron Kirkland,  
    *of the Connecticut Militia* . . ELMER TANGERMANN  
Colonel Mortimer Sherwood, *of the*  
    *Virginia Light Horse Cavalry* . ALEXANDER GERUSO  
Prudence Kirkland, *Aaron's daughter* . . . . . JOAN HOLT  
Comfort Kirkland, *his wife* . . . . . BETTY PAULDING  
Max Christmann, *a Hessian* . . . . . DICK LEATHER  
Thaddeus Jennings, *a sheriff* . . . . . JOSEPH BREAZNELL  
Reverend Lyman Banks . . . . . BERTRAM WOOD

## ~ SCENE ~

*The action of the play is laid in the parlor  
of the Kirkland Farm, Westville, Connecticut*

## ~ ACT I ~

*Scene 1—Late afternoon in November 1777.*

*Scene 2—Early afternoon in March 1778.*

## ~ ACT II ~

*Saturday evening a week later.*

## ~ ACT III ~

*The next morning.*

## *The PRODUCTION STAFF*

*Production Manager* . . . . . EILEEN HICKSON

*Settings* . . . . . GEORGE WILEY

*Charles Gulbrandsen, Edward King, Dolly King,  
Boyd Lipsett, Shirley Wiley, Wallace Wood*

*Lighting* . . . . . ED BOSTICK

*Properties* . . . . . ANN RILEY

*Emily Spence, Alice Chapman,  
Alvina Wood*

*Wardrobe* . . . . . RUTH WALLACH

*Marie Dunnells, Evelyn Innes,  
Charlotte Breaznell*

*Make-up* . . . . . BRAD & JEAN CONNER

*Assistant to the Director—Willis Ann Wolff*

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## *The BUSINESS STAFF*

*House Manager* . . . . . ROBERT MAYO

*Clifford Dunnells*

*Promotion* . . . . . STERLING HILES

*Publicity* . . . . . Willis Ann Wolff

*Poster Distribution* . . . . . Molly Tangerman

*Mail Promotion* . . . . . Barbara Mayo  
*Janice Hiles*

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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## JOAN HOLT (*Prudence Kirkland*)

Miss Holt, who will be graduated from Port Washington High School in February, has appeared in several high school dramas and won first place two years ago in the inter-class dramatic competition for her performance in "Circumstances Alter Cases." She filled a prominent role in last year's Red Domino presentation of "Junior Miss."

## DICK LEATHER (*Max Christmann*)

Mr. Leather, whose most recent performance was the judge in the Red Domino production of "Ten Little Indians," also won the high school inter-class award for his portrayal of the condemned youth in "The Valiant" last year. An active participant in many extra-curricular activities, Mr. Leather won a two-weeks airplane tour of the United States last January in the extemporaneous debate contest sponsored by the Metropolitan School Activities Association. He also spoke at this year's Herald-Tribune Youth Forum.

## ELMER TANGERMAN (*Captain Aaron Kirkland*)

Elmer Tangerman, currently the President of the Play Troupe, was last seen as the Wizard of Oz. Mr. Tangerman has proved his dramatic ability in many past productions, including "Berkeley Square," "Ladies of the Jury," and the title role in "The Reluctant Dragon."

## BETTY PAULDING (*Comfort Kirkland*)

A Vice-president of the Play Troupe, Mrs. Paulding was the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz." She was seen also as The Ghost of Christmas Present in "A Christmas Carol," staged by the Troupe and sponsored by the Flower Hill Parent-Teachers Association. She appeared in "Ladies of the Jury" and has lent her talents to the Village Welfare playlets for the past two years.



ALEXANDER GERUSO (*Colonel Mortimer Sherwood*)

Dick Geruso, after long inactivity, is once again bringing his talents to the stage in Play Troupe productions. This is his second role in recent months—He played the part of Fred, Scrooge's nephew, in "A Christmas Carol" last December.

RUTH TALBOT (*Meg*)

Mrs. Talbot is another veteran of both the acting and administrative activities of the Play Troupe. Her recent characterizations have included the defendant in "Ladies of the Jury," and Miss Wilkins in "Berkeley Square." Mrs. Talbot is current First Vice-President of the Play Troupe.

BERTRAM WOOD (*Reverend Lyman Banks*)

Mr. Wood has portrayed characters ranging from Scratch in "The Devil and Daniel Webster" to the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz." He also has acted in summer stock companies at various little theatres on Long Island. He was the miserly Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol."

JOSEPH BREAZNELL (*Thaddeus Jennings*)

In the past nine or ten years, Mr. Breaznell has contributed his talents to many Troupe productions, both on stage and behind the scenes. He served as production manager for the recent success "Blithe Spirit," took the part of a juryman in "Ladies of the Jury," and played the Ambassador in "Berkeley Square." He is a past President of the Play Troupe.

DENIS KING (*Mose*)

Mr. King is one of the Play Troupe's younger members. A member of the television staff of the National Broadcasting Company, Mr. King has previously appeared in "The Devil and Daniel Webster," and "My Sister Eileen." He also was in charge of sound effects for "Berkeley Square."

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# *The PROPERTIES for the Play*

*On the stage before you tonight is perhaps one of the finest collections of authentic antiques of the Revolutionary War period ever to be assembled at one time and place. So remarkable a collection is it and so generous have residents of Port Washington been in making their heirlooms available to us, that a full listing of donors will, we feel, make more than ordinarily interesting between-the-acts reading.*

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Aspinwall

*Lantern*

*Rocking Chair*

*Kettles*

*Candle Holders*

*Candle Snuffers*

Mr. & Mrs. Homer Bartlett

*Slant-top Desk*

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cranor

*Copper Kettle*

*China*

*Pewter*

Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Crowell

*Tavern Table*

*Two Rocking Chairs*

*Black Iron Trivets*

*Fireplace Shovel*

*Pottery Pie Dish*

Mr. & Mrs. Murray Davis

*Fireplace Tapers*

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Davis

*Windsor Chairs*

*Bellows*

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fetherston

*Musket*

Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Hazard

*Canopy Bed*

*Copper Bed Warmer*

*Sampler*

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kelley

*Flintlock Pistol*

*Saddlebag*

Mrs. Eleanor Lee

*Pictures*

Mr. & Mrs. Harlow Lincoln

*Bedspread*

*Candleholders*

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mayo

*Pine Chest*

*Pine Bench*

Betty Pierson Antique Shop

*Carpetbag*

*Foot Warmer*

*Knitting Needles*

*Brandy Jug*

*Wine Carafe*

Mr. & Mrs. William Riley

*Braid Rug*

*Mirror*

Mr. & Mrs. Wells Spence

*Hooked Rug*

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spencer

*Tankards*

Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Tangerman

*Flintlock Pistol*

*Corner Cabinet*

*Candlesticks*

*Fireplace Tapers*

*Clay Pipes and Rack*

*Musket*

*Pewter Pitcher*

*Bible*

Mr. & Mrs. Arleigh Van Nostrand

*Carpet Work-bag*

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Wood

*Andirons*

*China*

# A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF REHEARSAL FOR "The Pursuit of Happiness"

BY ANN MORTON

I SAT in one night on a rehearsal for "Pursuit of Happiness," the comedy that the Port Washington Play Troupe is giving at the High School, May 27 and 28.

The first thing that opened my eyes when I walked into the cafeteria was a huge box of totally unrelated objects that looked like the outcome of a scavenger hunt. There was a popcorn popper, milk bottles, toy popguns, a canvas beach bag and an Easter basket, to name a few.

"What's all this stuff?" I asked Bert Wood, the play's Reverend Banks, who was digging around in the motley assortment.

"These are our handprops . . . all make-shift, you understand," he told me. "If you'll just use a little imagination, I'm sure you'll be able to see that this is an old-fashioned bed-warmer." He waved the popcorn popper in my direction.

He went ahead and identified everything else in the box. The milk bottles were doubling for candles, the popguns were flintlock pistols of Revolutionary War vintage, the canvas bag represented a carpetbag, the vinegar jug was a bottle of rare old wine, the Easter basket was a lantern.

All were stand-ins for the regular props which Ann Riley and her scouts were tracking down.

While Mr. Wood introduced me to the props, Elmer Tangerman, president of the Play Troupe, who plays the role of Aaron the Connecticut farmer, and Dick Geruso who plays a Southern Colonel, had been setting the "stage."

"These six chairs up right are the bundling bed," Mr. Tangerman explained. "Those three down left are the fireplace, the two up center represent the door to the hall, the two up left are a door to the kitchen, those two over on the far right are a window. Oh, yes, and those chairs by the hall door are a desk. Now can you picture the setting? Oh, incidentally, the two chairs in the middle are chairs."

"Okay, everybody, let's get going," Tom Wolff, the director, shouted. "We'll do the second act—no books. Give the prompter a chance to do a little work . . . but not any more than you can help."

The prompter and assistant to the director, Willis Ann Wolff, settled herself behind the director's book, a paste-up of the play with notes and diagrams.

Mr. Tangerman, Betty Paulding, who plays his wife, and Joan Holt, their young and pretty daughter in the play, took their positions on the make-believe stage. Both women were wearing petticoats over their clothes—Joan's over a pair of blue dungarees—to "get used to floorlength skirts."

The scene was mainly concerned with the daughter's matrimonial prospects—one Thad Jennings, the county sheriff, played by Joe Breaznell. Mama's strongly pro, daughter's con and papa's more or less neutral.

"Just a moment, Comfort." The director broke in on Betty Paulding's speech. "You're moving toward the door on that line—but sorta hesitating."

Betty nodded and went over her line again with the "hesitation" movement. Finally Pa peers out the window and says,



"It's gettin' late . . . almost seven o'clock," and he and Mother trundle off to bed carrying their milk bottles (pardon, I mean candles). But not before Mother admonishes her daughter "not to be sparkin' too late."

Dick Leather, who is playing a young Hessian deserter who falls in love with the daughter, moved behind a row of chairs representing the wall of the house—ready to make his entrance "through the window."

And so it went. Mose, a colored servant played by Denis King, made an entrance and exit. Meg, a serving girl, played by Ruth Talbot, acted properly defiant when

questioned by Sheriff Thad.

Even though the actors had gone through the scene many times, those not "on stage" laughed hard at the uproarious lines and situations.

At 10 o'clock rehearsal with the chairs stopped. The actors sank into them wearily and began a "line rehearsal," tossing their lines at each other and catching them like infielders warming up before a baseball game.

"Curtain . . . all right folks, that's all tonight," the director said. "Tomorrow night—same place—acts one and two. She's coming along pretty well now, but don't let down—only two weeks to go."

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"THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" opened on Broadway on the night of October 9, 1933 with Peggy Conklin and Tonio Selwart in the romantic leads, and ran for 252 performances.